

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy No: 01-11 Subject: Plethysmograph	Effective Date: 03/07/03	Revision Date: 08/31/04
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I. Policy Statement

A penile plethysmograph may be used when integrated with juvenile sex offender treatment with adjudicated sexually offending juveniles that are ordered into the custody of Juvenile Justice Services.

II. Rationale

- A. The primary objectives of the clinical plethysmograph examination are to obtain accurate information for placement recommendations, treatment planning, clinical interventions, risk assessment, and community management.
- B. A policy has been developed to guide, safeguard and set standards for the clinical use of this invasive evaluation procedure.
- C. Use of the plethysmograph is expected to improve treatment delivery, treatment efficacy and reduce the potential for sexual recidivism.

III. Definitions

“Plethysmography” is a laboratory assessment of an individual’s sexual arousal patterns using non-pornographic audio and visual stimuli.

IV. Procedures

- A. Clearly defined procedures governing this clinical intervention technique are outlined to protect and safeguard the rights of each juvenile and to ensure the quality of the intervention process.
- B. The multi-disciplinary team shall consider the following indicators are present in a juvenile’s risk profile prior to recommending a penile plethysmograph test:
 - 1. pre-pubescent male and female victim(s),
 - 2. three or more known victims,
 - 3. pairing of aggression physiological arousal,
 - 4. self-report of deviant arousal, and
 - 5. offense history indicative of a persistent pattern.
- C. National guidelines shall be used for the qualitative delivery of this service which include:

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1. Informed written consent shall be obtained from the client.
2. Physiological assessments cannot be used to determine guilt or innocence.
3. Such testing may not be used alone to determine release from custody or treatment programs.
4. These measures shall always be used in conjunction with a complete test battery.
5. Clinicians using the plethysmograph shall use it with an understanding of sex offender dynamics.
7. Assessment shall be conducted using appropriate instruments, procedures and methodologies.
8. Assessments can be helpful in confronting and dealing with denial.
9. Assessments can be useful in monitoring treatment compliance and progress.

D. Local standards developed and implemented by the Utah Network on Juveniles Offending Sexually (NOJOS) also educate, define, and guide penile plethysmograph use with juveniles in Utah*.

*USE OF THE PENILE PLETHYSMOGRAPH WITH ADOLESCENTS IN UTAH

V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed two (2) years from its effective date to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Board of Juvenile Justice Services and is approved upon the signature of the Director.

Eldon Money, Chairman
Board of Juvenile Justice Services

Date

Blake D. Chard, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

Effective/Revision Date